



DE-CW0106

Delaware

Weekly Crop and Weather Report

APRIL 3, 2006

MOISTURE SHORT AS CROP SEASON GETS UNDERWAY

Delaware farmers have made progress on field preparations for spring planting with 7 days suitable for field work last week. However, many agriculturalists are concerned due to continued dry conditions. Water tables have dropped to very low levels. On average, Delaware growers received no more than 0.10 inches of rainfall over the past week; putting most reporting stations at 3.5 to 6.5 inch deficits since January 1, 2006. As of April 2, 2006, **topsoil** moisture was reported as 69 percent very short and 31 percent short while **subsoil** moisture was reported as 25 percent very short, 40 percent short, and 35 percent adequate.

Small grain development has been stunted by the dry conditions and farmers are already irrigating grain fields. **Wheat** stands are currently reported to be 13 percent very poor, 8 percent poor, 30 percent fair, 45 percent good, and 4 percent excellent. Delaware **barley** fields are reported to be 14 percent very poor, 9 percent poor, 31 percent fair, 42 percent good, and 4 percent excellent. Some vegetable planting is underway although dry, hard fields have somewhat limited progress. Planting of **green peas, potatoes, and sweet corn** was reported. Fruit crop bloom is somewhat ahead of normal, but erratic temperatures may affect fruit set as the season progresses.

Pasture conditions around the state were reported as 15 percent very poor, 8 percent poor, 34 percent fair, 39 percent good, and 4 percent excellent. **Hay** supplies were rated as 17 percent very short, 32 percent short, and 51 percent adequate.

DELAWARE’S CROP PROGRESS FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 2, 2006 (PERCENT)

Item	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average 2001-2005
Planting Progress:				
Green Peas	35	-	15	17
Potatoes	40	-	8	11
Sweet Corn	1	-	0	2
Fruit Crops Blooming:				
Apples	16	-	0	2
Peaches	30	-	0	7
Strawberries	5	-	0	1

SOIL MOISTURE CONDITIONS FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 2, 2006 (PERCENT)

Condition	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Topsoil Moisture	69	31	-	-
Topsoil (2005)	-	-	-	100
Five Year Average	Not Available			
Subsoil Moisture	25	40	35	-
Subsoil (2005)	-	5	67	28
Five Year Average	Not Available			

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Delaware Extension System, Delaware Farm Services Agency, Delaware Department of Agriculture, USDA/NASS/ Delaware Agricultural Statistics cooperating.

For more information call: Delaware Agricultural Statistics, 2320 South DuPont Hwy., Dover DE 19901, 302-698-4537 or 800-282-8685

WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING APRIL 2, 2006

	Precipitation			Temperatures			
Weather Station	Total this week	Total Since Jan 1	Departure from Normal Since Jan 1	High	Low	Average	Departure from Normal
Maryland							
Baltimore/Washington Airport	0.01	6.32	-3.43	78	34	54	6
Easton	0.05	6.54	-2.06	76	34	51	8
Frederick	0.21	7.46	-3.03	75	26	46	5
Frostburg	0.06	4.11	-4.26	75	29	52	6
Hagerstown	0.04	4.61	-6.44	79	32	52	3
Mechanicsville	0.00	4.11	-5.61	76	37	54	4
Patuxent River	0.24	4.90	-7.05	73	31	50	0
Ocean City	0.19	4.96	-6.54	76	25	49	1
Salisbury	0.10	5.64	-2.96	77	25	51	7
Sharpsburg	0.00	5.57	-4.33	75	38	54	5
Washington, DC (Reagan National)	0.02	5.77	-3.01	78	38	57	6
Delaware							
Dover	0.07	5.64	-4.45	75	36	53	5
Georgetown	0.12	4.68	-6.37	78	33	53	7
Wilmington	0.03	6.17	-3.42	74	33	53	6

Weather Data is provided by the Agricultural Weather Information Service, Auburn, Alabama and is considered preliminary.